



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,660	03/11/2002	Hideyuki Narita	09798423-0008	6623

26263 7590 06/23/2006

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. BOX 061080  
WACKER DRIVE STATION, SEARS TOWER  
CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, QUYNH H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/980,660	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NARITA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Quynh H. Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 2614	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment filed 4/14/06 has been entered. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 24-26, 28-30, 38-39, 43, 45, 53-54, 58, and 68-69 have been amended. Claims 6 and 23 have been cancelled. No claims have been added.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. Claims 1-5, 8-13, 15-22, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maekawa (U.S. Patent 5,663,953).

As to claims 1, 13, and 18, Maekawa teaches a communication control apparatus for controlling multipoint communication conducted using a plurality of communication apparatuses connected via a communication circuit (col. 2, lines 9-11) comprising: a request processing unit (col. 2, line 11 - *inquiry means*) for inquiring to a designated communication apparatus whether it intends to attend multipoint communication when receiving information designating that communication apparatus and a request seeking the attendance of that designated communication apparatus in the multipoint communication (col. 2, lines 11-14; col. 4, lines 24-28; col. 5, lines 18-21), and for sending information necessary for the designated communication apparatus to attend

Art Unit: 2614

the multipoint communication to the designated communication apparatus (col. 4, lines 29-33; col. 5, lines 37-49); and a communication control unit (*system control unit 14 comprises telephone directory managing unit 14b*) for controlling the multipoint communication among the plurality of communication apparatuses including the designated communication apparatus when receiving an answer from the designated communication apparatus to the effect of attending the multipoint communication (col. 2, lines 14-19; col. 4, lines 29-33).

As to claims 2 and 19, Maekawa teaches the request processing unit (col. 2, line 11 - *inquiry means*) notifies the communication apparatus issuing the request that it has received an answer from the designated communication apparatus to the effect of refusing to attend the multipoint communication when receiving the same (Fig. 4, S24; col. 2, lines 1-6; col. 4, lines 29-33; col. 5, lines 18-25).

As to claims 3, and 20, Maekawa teaches issuing an answer to the effect of refusing to attend the multipoint communication of the conversation at a predetermined timing (Fig. 2, S3, S4, S8, and S9; col. 6, lines 17-22).

As to claims 4, and 21, Maekawa teaches the request processing unit notifying the apparatus when at least one of the attendants in the multipoint communication and content of communication changes (Fig. 4, S23 and S24).

As to claims 5 and 22, Maekawa teaches the requesting processing unit sends information about at least one of the attendants in the multipoint communication (Fig. 4, S23 and S24).

As to claims 8 and 24, Maekawa teaches the communication control unit controls data transmitted from the plurality of communication apparatuses engaged in the multipoint communication to be received by other communication apparatuses other than the communication apparatuses transmitting the data (col. 5, lines 18-25; col. 4, lines 50-52; col. 5, lines 46-49).

Claims 9 and 25 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Maekawa teaches determining if a corresponding member is absent, move data information of the member registered in the non-response group to a disparticipation group (col. 6, lines 11-50), hence disconnecting from the multipoint communication in response to the inquiry from the request processing in order to save system resource also freeing up conference ports for others would like to participate.

As to claim 12, Maekawa teaches carrying out a charge processing on users of the communication apparatus for the service related to the multipoint communication (col. 1, lines 51-55; col. 2, lines 20-24).

As to claim 15, Maekawa teaches the command to attend the multipoint communication is input (Fig. 2, S3 & S4; col. 5, lines 18-25 and lines 42-46).

As to claim 16, Maekawa teaches a display unit for display based on image information sent from the communication control apparatus (Fig. 1, display unit 8; Fig. 2, S9; Fig. 3, S12; col. 3, lines 41-65).

Art Unit: 2614

As to claim 17, Maekawa teaches a speech output unit for speech output based on speech information transmitted from the communication control apparatus (Fig. 1, microphone 2 & speaker 3; col. 3, lines 15-18).

Claim 26 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Maekawa teaches a medium for providing a program describing a routine for controlling multipoint communication (col. 3, line 61 through col. 4, line 3).

Claim 27 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 2. Furthermore, Maekawa teaches a medium for providing a program describing a routine for notifying the communication apparatus (col. 3, line 61 through col. 4, line 3).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. Claims 7, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa (U.S. Patent 5,663,953) in view of Dinwoodie (U.S. Patent 6,415,269).

As to claims 7 and 14, Maekawa does not teach the information necessary for attendance in the multipoint communication is information identifying the multipoint communication and a password.

Dinwoodie teaches the information necessary for attendance in the multipoint communication is information identifying the multipoint communication and a password (Fig. 2, elements 42, 44 & 48; col. 4, lines 7-20).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Dinwwodie into the teachings of Maekawa for authentication purposes.

5. Claims 28-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa (U.S. Patent 5,663,953) in view of Kenichi (JP 11272577).

Claims 28 and 43 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. However, Maekawa does not teach a keyword input means for inputting a keyword, a keyword extracting means for extracting the keyword from the received data.

Kenichi teaches a keyword input means for inputting a keyword, a keyword extracting means for extracting the keyword from the received data (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Kenichi into the teachings of Maekawa for the purpose of enabling a user to acquire a desired speech and to participate in a chat.

Claims 29-42 and 44-57 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 28.

Claim 58 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 28. Furthermore, Kenichi teaches a medium providing a program for making a computer execute (see abstract).

Claims 59-69 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 44-54, respectively.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 4/14/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Maekawa only concerned with registering all the pieces of personal information of the members. This is irrelevant. Applicant further argues that Maekawa does not teach sending information necessary for the designated communication apparatus to attend the multipoint communication to the designated communication apparatus. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Maekawa teaches sending information necessary for the designated communication apparatus to attend the multipoint communication to the designated communication apparatus (col. 4, lines 29-33; col. 5, lines 37-49).

### ***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of



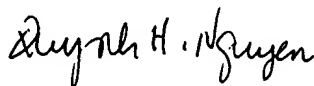
Art Unit: 2614

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:15 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan, can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**Quynh H. Nguyen**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Art Unit 2614**